State of California
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Land Management and Monitoring Program
South Coast Region

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: Land Management Plan for the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Game

Availability of Documents: The Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study Checklist are available for public review at:

- California Department of Fish and Game
  4949 Viewridge Avenue
  San Diego, CA 92123

- San Diego County Library
  Rancho San Diego Branch
  11555 Via Rancho San Diego
  El Cajon, CA 92019

- California Department of Fish and Game website
  http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/pubnotice/

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The proposed project is the approval and implementation of an initial Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA) Land Management Plan (LMP). The HCWA provides habitat for "special status" species, game species and other native species.

Maintenance activities included in the LMP are:

- Removal of eucalyptus trees from the central segment of Jamul Creek and from the unnamed tributary near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site.

- Restoration of approximately 900 feet of an unnamed tributary to Hollenbeck Canyon where erosion has created a gully approximately 30 feet deep.

- Restoration of old dirt roads and single-track trails designated for closure.

- Actively manage up to 100 acres of non-native grassland in the western portion of HCWA for conversion to native grassland. Management may include experimental designs using a combination of grazing, controlled burns, thatch removal, seeding, or other techniques.

- Continued maintenance of selected non-native grassland areas by sowing cereal wheat to attract doves for hunting.

- Maintenance of existing trails, gates, parking areas, and hunting dog training areas.

- The monitoring of plant and animal populations, public use, and related scientific research.

Construction activities included in the LMP are:

- Create ponds for hunting dog training by repairing, enhancing and filling abandoned stock ponds near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site.

- Install approximately 2,300 feet of 2-inch water line from the nearest well to serve the former stock ponds.

- Create a new approximately 1-acre unpaved parking area in a disturbed area near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site. Install a vehicle gate and horse gate near the new parking lot to provide additional access along an existing road to the neighboring hunting dog training ponds and trails in this area. A combination lock will allow access by members of the public authorized to use the ponds for hunting dog training.

- Install a horse gate in the northern boundary fence where a trail enters the site.

The ongoing operation of the HCWA includes the public uses incorporated in the LMP. Public uses that would be permitted under the LMP include hunting, hiking and equestrian trails, mountain biking, environmental education, and hunting dog training.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Karen L. Miner, Senior Environmental Scientist
Lands Program Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 627-3939

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DFG. DFG, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study.

Theresa A. Stewart — 8-28-08
Theresa A. Stewart — Date
Supervising Biologist

Edmund J. Pert — 9-2-08
Edmund J. Pert — Date
Regional Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA) Land Management Plan (LMP) is a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that requires environmental analysis. This Environmental Checklist has been prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) in conformance with the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The Department conducted a public meeting on June 28, 2006 to initiate the planning process with the public and receive comments from interested parties. Approximately 55 people attended the meeting which was held at Department headquarters facilities at the neighboring Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve (RJER). Several persons presented verbal comments, and 11 written comments were received. The comments generally addressed the issues of hunting, public access, upstream water sources, relationship to the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), wildlife linkages, access for disabled persons, source of funds used to purchase the property, current and future use of all-terrain vehicles, coordination with County of San Diego Trails Master Plan, and compatibility of passive management with active uses. The issues raised have been addressed in the LMP and in this Environmental Checklist analysis. Table 1 provides the page numbers where these issues are addressed in the LMP and the Environmental Checklist. Copies of the letters received and a transcript of the public comments are available at the Department's offices at 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123.

Table 1

Topic	**LMP**	**Environmental Checklist**
Public Access	148, 156	2, 4-6, 24-26
Hunting	35, ,37-41, 43, 54, 80, 103, 104, 115-125, 143	3, 6-8
Hunting Dog Training	9, 28, 35, 43, 44	6, 8, 30, 36, 40
relationship to the County of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)	4-6, 64, 67, 74, 86-92, 111, 112, 117, 125, 140	3, 32-34, 41, 43
wildlife linkages	4, 9, 85-88, 93, 117	3, 5, 33, 34, 39, 42
access for disabled persons	118	-
current and future use of all-terrain vehicles	36-37, 42-43, 92	-
coordination with the County of San Diego Trails Master Plan	148	3, 35, 44
compatibility of passive management with active uses	35, 120	3, 36, 42

Environmental Checklist Form

1. **Project Title: <u>Land Management Plan for the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area</u>**

2. **Lead agency name and address:**
California Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

3. **Contact person and phone number:**
Karen L. Miner, Senior Environmental Scientist
Lands Program Supervisor
(858) 627-3939

4. **Project location:**
The 5,189-acre HCWA is located within the County of San Diego Jamul/Dulzura Subregional Plan area. The Jamul/Dulzura Subregion covers an area of approximately 168 square miles located south of Loveland Reservoir and the Sweetwater River, north of the Mexican border, and southeast of the cities of La Mesa and El Cajon, and the unincorporated Rancho San Diego community.

HCWA is immediately adjacent to State Route (SR) 94 and the RJER. The community of Jamul is to the northwest and the community of Dulzura is to the southeast (see Figure 1). The HCWA site takes its name from Hollenbeck Canyon that traverses the center of the site (see Figure 2). The aerial photograph (Figure 3) illustrates the physical features of the site and surrounding land uses. This figure also illustrates the 3,210-acre "original acquisition area" acquired in 2001 and the 1,979-acre "Honey Springs Ranch Acquisition Area" that was acquired in 2003.

Although SR 94 borders the entire southwestern boundary of the wildlife area, there is no public access into the property from this major roadway. Access into the northern portion of the wildlife area is from Rancho Jamul Drive, which traverses the northern end of the property. Limited parking along the shoulder of Rancho Jamul Drive, and a small parking lot near SR 94 is used for special events. Toward the southern portion of the property, a gravel public parking lot is located immediately north of Honey Springs Road, approximately 500 feet east of SR 94. Parking for cars and horse trailers is available in this lot.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address**:
California Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

6. **General plan designation:**
County of San Diego: General Agriculture and Specific Plan Area

7. **Zoning**:
County of San Diego
General Agriculture (A-72)
Specific Planning Area (S-88)
Rural Residential (RR)

8. **Description of project:**

The proposed project is the approval and implementation of an initial HCWA LMP. The HCWA provides habitat for "special status" species, game species and other native species. The Department has managed the HCWA to protect wildlife and habitat since 2001 and allowable on-site uses are wildlife-dependent and compatible with the mission of a Wildlife Area. Uses that are detrimental to wildlife or not wildlife dependent are prohibited.

The HCWA LMP is consistent with the MSCP/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). The MSCP was developed to conserve the diversity and function of the ecosystem through the preservation and adaptive management of large blocks of interconnected habitat and smaller areas that support rare vegetation communities. Maintaining ecosystem functions and persistence of extant populations of sensitive species is the biological goal of the MSCP. The Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) identified by the MSCP traverses the HCWA and the adjacent RJER, as well as nearby U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The MHPA includes areas known to support high quality biological resources as well as areas that have been identified as important linkages that connect larger areas of open space. The MHPA identified within HCWA both supports high quality biological resources and secures an important linkage connecting Otay Mountain/Jamul Mountains to Sycuan Peak.

The purpose of the LMP is to establish management goals and objectives that are compatible with wildlife area management principals. Appropriate public uses of the property are identified that are compatible with the Department's mission. The LMP's management guidelines include:

1) Adaptive management of habitats, species, and programs to achieve the Department's mission to protect and enhance wildlife values.

2) Appropriate public uses of the property.

3) A descriptive inventory of wildlife and native plant habitats that occur on or use the property.

4) An overview of the property's operation and maintenance, and personnel requirements to implement management goals, as well as a budget planning aid for annual regional budget preparation.

5) A description of potential and actual environmental impacts and subsequent mitigation, which may occur during management.

This Initial Study analyzes the whole of the proposed project, including the following project components:

- Approval of the HCWA LMP.
- Maintenance activities to sustain the HCWA and its habitats, including control of non-native, invasive species and restoration of disturbed areas. Specific activities included in the LMP are:
    - Removal of eucalyptus trees from the central segment of Jamul Creek and

from the unnamed tributary near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site.

- Restoration of approximately 900 feet of an unnamed tributary to Hollenbeck Canyon where erosion has created a gully approximately 30 feet deep.
- Restoration of old dirt roads and single-track trails designated for closure.
- Actively manage up to 200 acres of non-native grassland in the western portion of HCWA for conversion to native grassland. Management may include experimental designs using a combination of grazing, controlled burns, thatch removal, seeding, or other techniques.
- Continued maintenance of selected non-native grassland areas by sowing cereal wheat to attract doves for hunting.

- The ongoing operation of the HCWA includes the public uses incorporated in the LMP. Public uses that would be permitted under the LMP include hunting, hiking and equestrian trails, mountain biking, environmental education, and hunting dog training (see Figure 4).
- Construction of the following improvements within the HCWA (see Figure 4):
  - Create ponds for hunting dog training by repairing, enhancing and filling abandoned stock ponds near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site.
  - Install approximately 2,300 feet of 2-inch water line from the nearest well to serve the former stock ponds.
  - Create a new approximately 1-acre unpaved parking area in a disturbed area near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site. Install a vehicle gate and horse gate near the new parking lot to provide additional access along an existing road to the neighboring hunting dog training ponds and trails in this area. Install a horse gate in the northern boundary fence where a trail enters the site.
- Maintenance of existing trails, gates, parking areas, and hunting dog training areas.
- The monitoring of plant and animal populations, public use, and related scientific research.
- Ongoing coordination with public agencies and private entities consistent with the objectives of the LMP.
- The dissemination of public information regarding the HCWA.
- Regular updating of HCWA regulations.
- Enforcement of all applicable laws and regulations.

Public uses that would be permitted under the LMP include the following

- Hunting - Resident small game (e.g. dove, quail, and rabbits) are hunted on the reserve. Potential opportunities include crow, non-game mammals (e.g. coyote, bobcat, and ground squirrel). In addition, pheasant and wild turkey, although these species are not currently present, may be hunted in the future. Table 2 lists the hunting periods. Currently, the daily range of hunters is from 3 to 8 hunters on weekdays, 10 to 20 on non-opener weekend days, and 30 to 40 on opening days. Some areas are closed to hunting for buffer and management purposes, including areas adjacent to the private Daley Ranch compound and other residences in the northwestern portion of HCWA, the area surrounding a private inholding in the central portion of HCWA, and state housing area south of Honey Springs Road.

  Hunting is by shotgun, falconry, air rifles larger than .20 caliber, or archery only; no gunpowder rifles or pistols are allowed due to the proximity of residential areas. Shotguns and archery are allowed for hunting only; no target practice is allowed. Falconry is allowed but is not generally used due to the high number of raptors present that could attack hunting falcons. "Put and take" pheasant hunts do not currently occur on HCWA as they do on RJER; however, they may be conducted in the future.

Table 2
Hunting Seasons Applicable to HCWA

Species	Season*	Total Days*
Dove	Early September (early season) Late November – early December (late season)	15 45
Quail	Mid-October – late January Late August – mid-September (archery only)	105 (3.5 months) 20
Rabbits	Early September – late January	120 (4 months)
Coyote	Early September – late January	120 (4 months)
Crow	Early December – late January	60 (2 months)

*Dates and number of days vary annually

- Wildlife viewing, environmental education, and nature study - The quality and diversity of habitat and wildlife species provide extensive opportunities for nature study and wildlife viewing. Some school field trips and other groups are hosted at the adjacent RJER, which is intended to have a greater focus on educational programs; these groups may also visit HCWA.

- Trail use - There are approximately 21.4 miles of double-track and single-track trails open to all uses. From the parking area at Honey Springs Road at an elevation of about 750 feet, the trails climb into the hills, reaching elevations of

about 1,800 feet near the northeastern portion of HCWA. In addition to recreational use, the trails are used for management, research, and Department activities and by Border Patrol staff.

The *San Diego County Community Trails Master Plan* has been adopted by the County to establish a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an identified public need for recreation and transportation, and to provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments. Existing HCWA and RJER trails connect with several of the existing and proposed County trail system.

The California Hiking and Riding Trail connects to and overlays a portion of the trail system in HCWA. That segment of trail was formerly a part of the state-designated trail. Equestrians and others may access HCWA from adjacent lands to the east on the California Hiking and Riding Trail, although the former trail easements were dissolved. The State discontinued the trail and no longer maintains it. The County of San Diego is investigating taking over management of the trail. If the County does not take over management, it would become part of the normal trail system without special designation.

Equestrian use of the trails is about 5 to 10 riders per day during the week and 10 to 20 on weekend days. Some of these riders are adjacent residents who can access the land on horseback; however, there are no access points from private land). To protect the trails, equestrian use is allowed only on compacted, dry roads with a 3-day wait after a significant rain event. Organized group rides are required to get permits from the Department.

Hiking and other pedestrian use of the trails is somewhat greater than equestrian use, with about 10 to 20 hikers per day on weekdays and 20 to 40 per day on weekends. Mountain biking activity on the trails is similar in amount to equestrian use, with 5 to 10 riders on weekdays (generally in the morning and early evening) and 10 to 20 riders on weekend days. Hikers are allowed off-trail, while equestrians and bike riders are required to remain on designated routes. Mountain bike use is allowed only on dry trails with a 3-day wait after a significant rain event.

- Hunting dog training and use - Visitors may bring hunting dogs onto HCWA for either training or hunting. Although leashes are not required during hunting dog training, hunting dogs must be under immediate control by their owners. Visitors are permitted to train hunting dogs in designated areas from September through February. Two training areas have been designated. The larger is a 500-acre area at the northwest corner of HCWA along SR 94, with parking on Rancho Jamul Drive, which crosses the training area. The smaller area is north of the junction of SR 94 and Honey Springs Road, near the main parking area. About 5 to 10 people per week use these areas for hunting dog training. Hunting dog trainers may release pigeons and male game birds for training purposes. Hunting dog field trials may be permitted upon issuance of a special use permit.

- Research - ongoing biological research of various plant and animal species

supply important information to guide future management and stewardship of resources. Mountain lion, deer, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and California gnatcatcher are among the species being studied. Quail and dove are also counted on a regular basis.

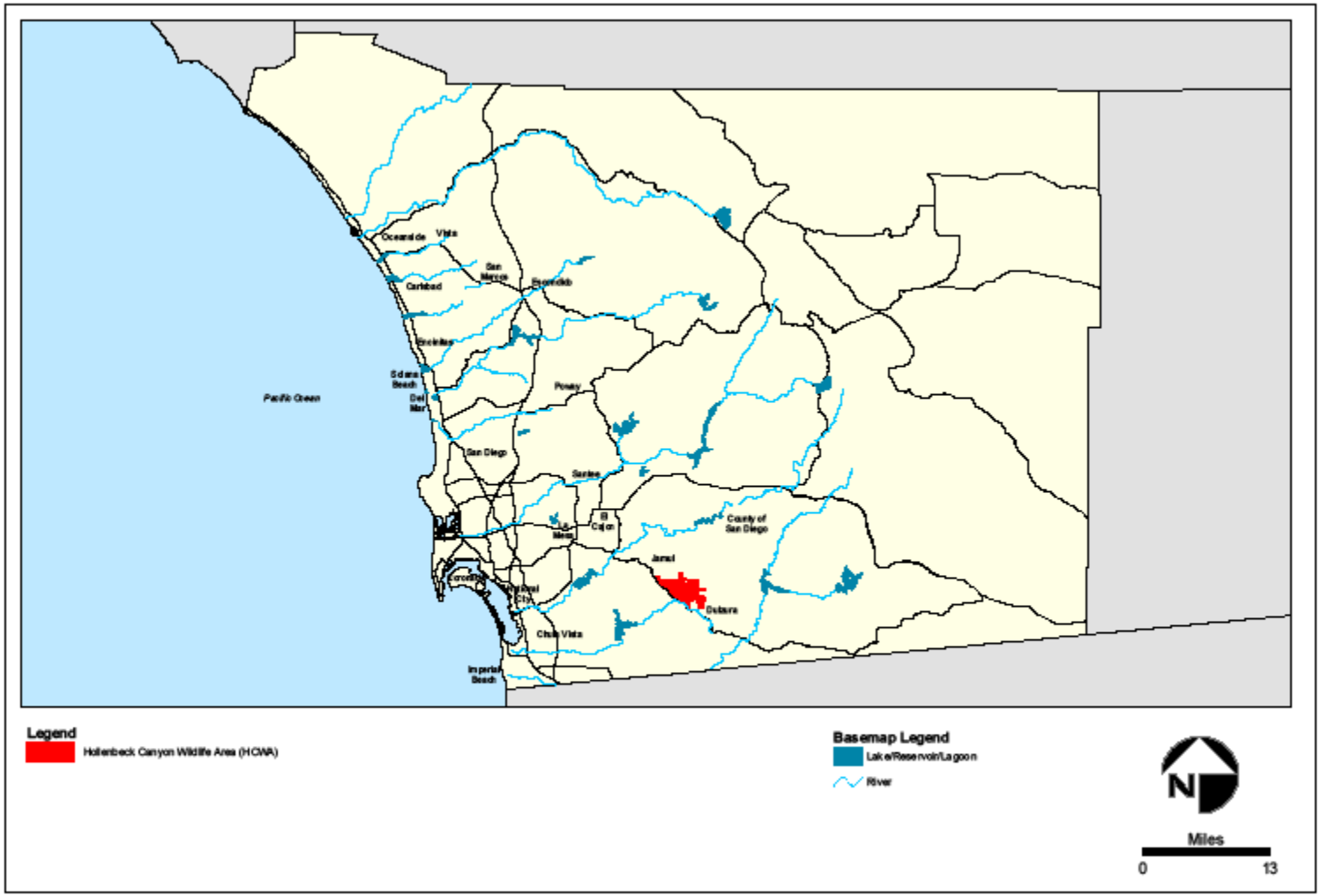
- Unauthorized activity - unauthorized activities include motorized vehicle and motorcycle use, and trail creation. Citations are issued and fines can be levied by County court system.

- Closed area/periods - **t**he section of HCWA between (south of) Honey Springs Road and SR 94, an area of approximately 468 acres, is currently closed to the public. No entry is allowed to this area except to Department or other authorized personnel for an authorized reason. There is one unit of state housing in this area near Honey Springs Road and SR 94. A second, smaller area of approximately 35 acres, north of Honey Springs Road, is also closed to public access. This closed area includes a private inholding and a surrounding area that is closed to minimize unauthorized entry to the private inholding.

  Staff and/or volunteers responsible for gate openings and closures may be instructed by the HCWA manager to keep gates closed and post temporary closure signs during high fire danger, severe weather, and for up to 3 days following heavy rain events.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:**
The unincorporated community of Jamul is located north of the HCWA (see Figures 1 and 2). A single-family residential area is located adjacent to the HCWA just north of Jamul Butte (see Figures 2 and 3). The area northeast of the HCWA is largely vacant although a few scattered residences are located near existing roads. A cluster of estate residences are located immediately east of the HCWA along Honey Springs Road. Another cluster of residences are located between the southern boundary of HCWA and SR 94 The Daley Ranch home site is located adjacent to SR 94 and Jamul Creek. The RJER is located southwest of the HCWA.

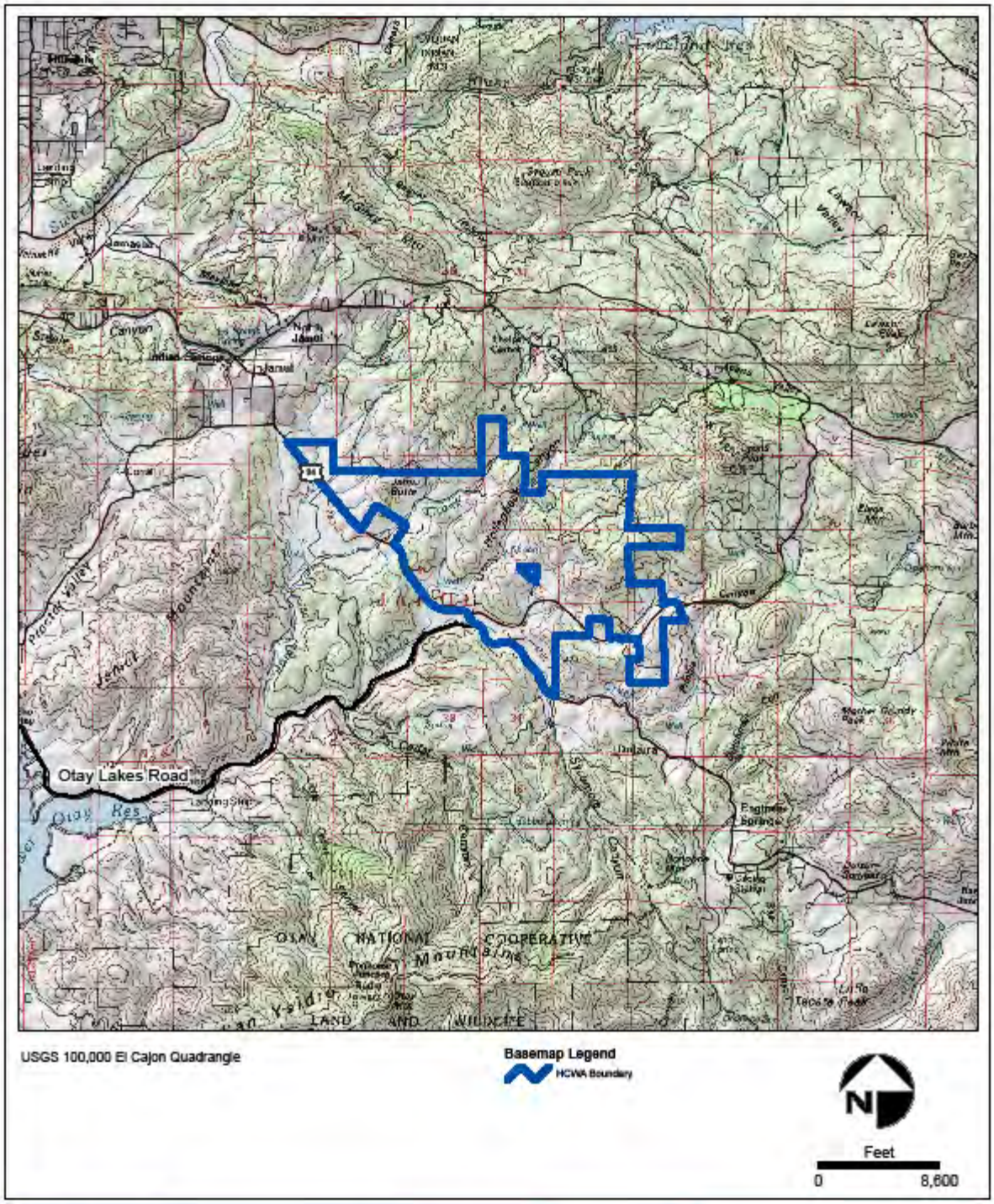
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).**
No other public agency approval is required for the adoption of the HCWA LMP.



EDAW

Regional Location Map

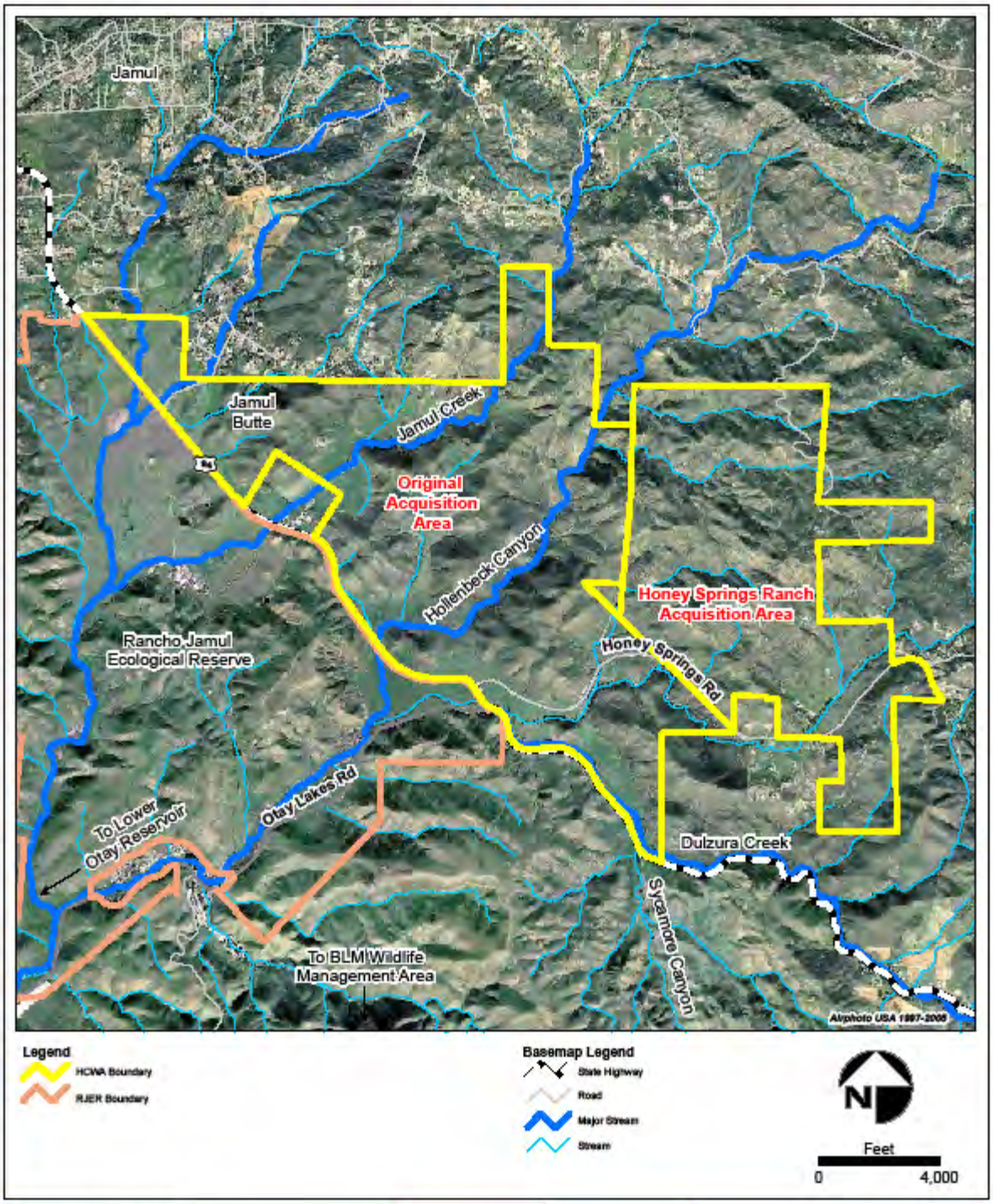
Figure 1



EDAW

USGS Topographic Quadrangle

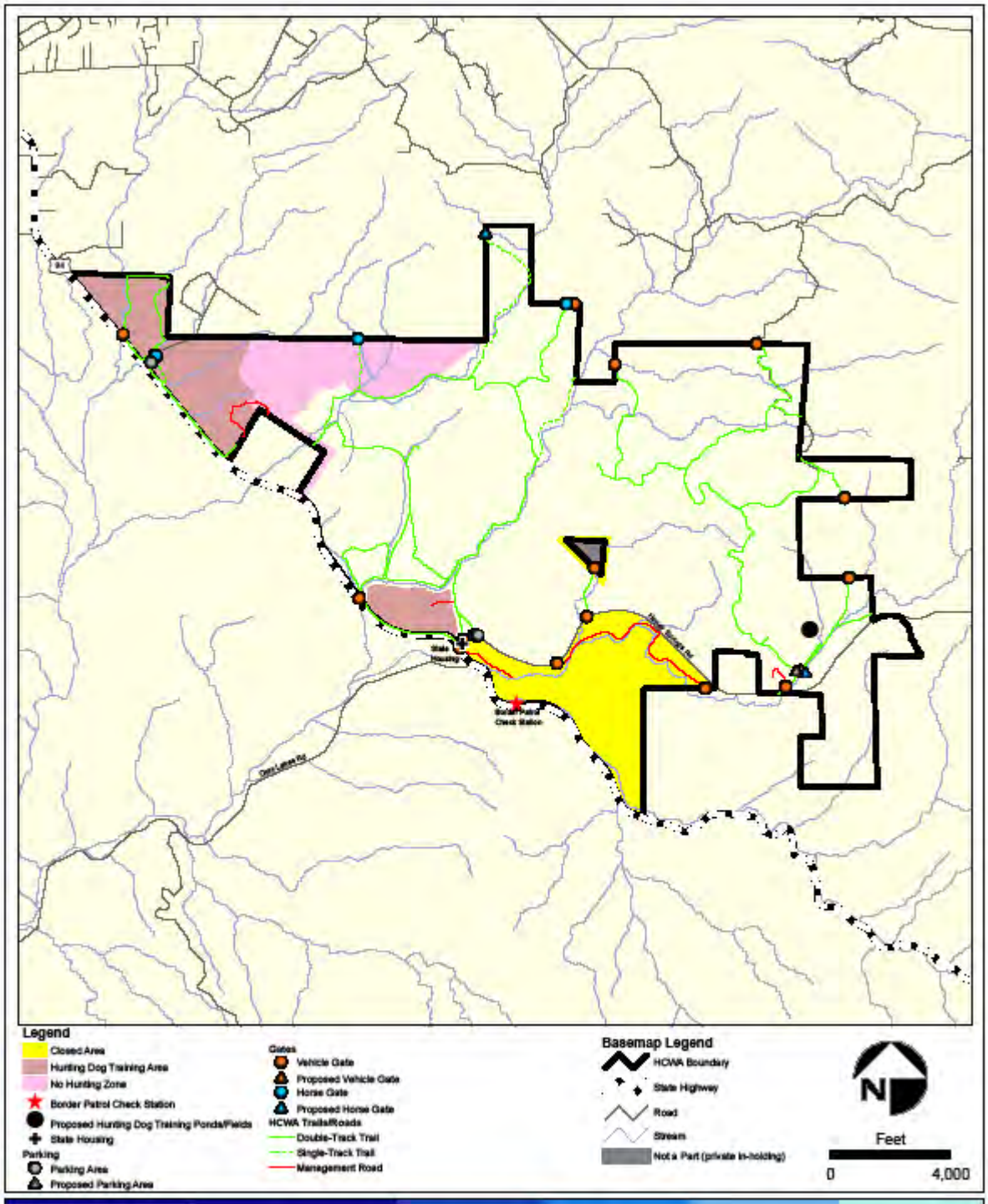
Figure 2



EDAW

Land Acquisition Map

Figure 3



EDAW

Public Use

Figure 4

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

If implemented as written, this LMP would not result in a "Potentially Significant Impact" involving the environmental factors listed below, as documented in the Environmental Checklist/Initial Study on the following pages.

□	Aesthetics	□	Agriculture Resources	□	Air Quality
X	Biological Resources	X	Cultural Resources	□	Geology /Soils
□	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	□	Hydrology / Water Quality	X	Land Use / Planning
□	Mineral Resources	□	Noise	□	Population / Housing
□	Public Services	□	Recreation	□	Transportation/Traffic
□	Utilities / Service Systems	□	Mandatory Findings of Significance	□	NONE

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- X I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Theresa A. Stewart, Supervising Biologist — **Date** 9-23-08

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, and then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	□	□	□	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	□	□	□	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	□	□	□	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	□	□	□	X
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES -- In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	□	□	□	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	□	□	□	X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	□	□	□	X

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	□	□	X	□
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	□	□	X	□
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	□	□	X	□
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	□	□	□	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	□	□	□	X
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	□	X	□	□
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	□	X	□	□

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	□	X	□	□
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	□	□	X	□
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	□	□	□	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	□	□	□	X
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?	□	X	□	□
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?	□	X	□	□
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	□	□	□	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	□	□	□	X

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	□	□	□	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	□	□	□	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	□	□	□	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	□	□	□	X
iv) Landslides?	□	□	□	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	□	□	□	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	□	□	□	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	□	□	□	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	□	□	□	X
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	□	□	□	X

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	□	□	□	X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	□	□	□	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	□	□	□	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	□	□	□	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	□	□	□	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	□	□	□	X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	□	□	X	□

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY
-- Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	□	□	□	X

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)	□	□	□	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	□	□	□	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	□	□	□	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	□	□	□	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	□	□	□	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	□	□	□	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	□	□	□	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	□	□	X	□
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	□	□	□	X

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	□	□	□	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	□	X	□	□
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	□	□	□	X
X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	□	□	□	X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	□	□	□	X
XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	□	□	□	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	□	□	□	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	□	□	□	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	□	□	□	X

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	□	□	□	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	□	□	□	X

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	□	□	□	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	□	□	□	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	□	□	□	X

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	□	□	□	X
Police protection?	□	□	□	X
Schools?	□	□	□	X
Parks?	□	□	□	X
Other public facilities?	□	□	□	X

XIV. RECREATION --

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	□	□	□	X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	□	□	□	X

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	□	□	□	X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	□	□	□	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?	□	□	□	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	□	□	□	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	□	□	□	X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	□	□	□	X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	□	□	□	X

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -

- Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	□	□	□	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	□	□	□	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	□	□	□	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	□	□	□	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	□	□	□	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	□	□	□	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	□	□	□	X

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	□	□	□	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	□	□	□	X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	□	□	□	X

EXPLANATIONS TO CHECKLIST ANSWERS

I. AESTHETICS

a), b), c), and d). No Impact.

There are no designated scenic vistas in the area surrounding HCWA and none of the local roadways are designated as scenic routes by the California Scenic Highway Program. However, the County of San Diego Scenic Highway Element designates SR 94 and Honey Springs Road from SR 94 to Lyons Valley Road as Third Priority Scenic Routes. The project would not adversely affect a scenic vista, natural resources, historic buildings, or SR 94 and Honey Springs Road because no new structures will be constructed, no designated historic structures would be removed, and the existing landform within the HCWA would remain in its natural state. Infrastructure development would be limited to refilling abandoned stock ponds with water, creating a new approximately 1-acre unpaved parking area with a vehicle gate and horse gate in a disturbed area near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site, adding interpretive and boundary signage on trails, installing a new horse gate where a trail enters the site, and repairing or removing existing fencing. No outdoor lighting would be installed on the site. The scenic features of the site's landform will remain intact because grading would be limited to the periodic maintenance of roads used by Department staff, and the limited restoration of eroded dirt roads and trails. As a land management plan, the proposed project would preserve existing native vegetation and natural visual resources. To maintain style, replacement materials for fencing and building repair should match closely existing materials. Portable toilets should be placed in ranch style screening and away from adjacent landowners where feasible.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

a), b), and c). No Impact.

Cattle were grazed on the site in the past and agricultural activities were conducted in some of the low-lying areas. No current farming or ranching operations occur on the property and the site is not under a Williamson Act contract. The HCWA would conserve the existing land and vegetation resources found on the site and no clearing of vegetation or uses of the land is proposed that would hinder future agriculture uses. Agriculture activities are not proposed by the LMP. The proposed LMP would not impact prime or unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance.

III. AIR QUALITY

a), b), and c). Less Than Significant Impact.
d) and e). No Impact.

San Diego County is in non-attainment for the 1-hour concentrations under the California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) for Ozone (O_3). San Diego County is also in non-attainment for the annual geometric mean and for the 24-hour concentrations of particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM_{10}) under the CAAQS. VOC sources include any source that burns fuels (e.g., gasoline, natural gas, wood, oil); solvents; petroleum processing and storage; and pesticides. Sources of PM_{10} in both urban and rural areas include: motor vehicles, wood burning stoves and fireplaces, dust from construction, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, brush/waste burning, and industrial sources of windblown dust from open lands.

Operation of the HCWA project would not result in emissions of significant quantities of criteria pollutants listed in the CAAQS or toxic air contaminants as identified by the California Air Resources Board. Increases in vehicular trips would be minimal because the LMP proposes no new activities or uses that would attract a substantial number of additional visitors to the site and the proposed expansion of site activities such as a hunting dog training area would not generate a substantial number of automobile trips. Further, there are no substantial grading operations associated with of the project. There are no sensitive receptors such as schools in the project vicinity and the activities at the HCWA would not produce odors. Consequently, the project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of PM_{10}, or any O_3 precursors. Consequently, the project would not conflict or obstruct with the implementation of the RAQS nor the SIP on a project or cumulative level.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

a), b), c). Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.
d). Less Than Significant.
e) and f). No Impact.

Twenty-three vegetation types and one additional land cover type (i.e., areas that do not support vegetation) have been mapped within the HCWA. Scrublands (Diegan coastal sage scrub, chamise chaparral, disturbed chamise chaparral, scrub oak chaparral, southern mixed chaparral, and coastal sage scrub-chaparral) cover 77% of the site. Native and non-native grasslands have been mapped on 17% of the site. Riparian habitats (southern coast live oak, southern arroyo-willow, sycamore woodland, sycamore-oak riparian forest, southern willow scrub, mulefat scrub) occupy nearly 5% of the site. Upland woodlands (coast live oak and eucalyptus) occur on less than 1% of the site, as does open water and developed lands. Less than 1% of the site is classified as disturbed habitat.

A total of 215 floral species are documented as occurring within the HCWA. Of these 215 species, 168 (78%) are native species and the remaining 47 (22%) are non-native species. The two largest plant families in the county are also the families with the most species present on HCWA with 41 taxa observed in the Asteraceae family and 20 taxa observed in the Poaceae family. Similar to the patterns observed for the native taxa, the highest number of non-native taxa also belongs to the Asteraceae (9 observed) and Poaceae (12 observed) families. The high number of native species within HCWA reflects the large amount of contiguous natural habitat within HCWA that would promote plant species diversity. In addition, a number of areas of HCWA are underlain by clay, gabbro, and metasedimentary soils, which would also contribute to plant diversity by providing a mosaic of different substrates for plant establishment.

The HCWA has an abundant diversity of invertebrate species that utilize a variety of habitats. Fifty-two insect species were observed during surveys. Twenty-eight native species of ants, including several species of harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex rugosus*, *Messor andrei,* and *M*. *stoddardii*) have been identified on-site and no non-native species of ants were observed. Twenty-three species of butterflies were recorded, including red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), perplexing hairstreak (*Calloprhys dumetorum perplexa*), Felder's orangetip (*Anthocaris cethura*), and Quino checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha quino*). Additionally, one wasp species, the tarantula wasp (*Pepsis formosa*), and one aquatic macroinvertebrate species, the swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), were also identified.

The HCWA does not have permanent water bodies that support fish, and no focused surveys for fish have been conducted. The western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) is known to occur within the spring-fed creek on HCWA.

Four amphibian species have been detected within HCWA, including the garden slender salamander (*Batrachoseps major*), Pacific tree frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), California tree frog (*P. cadaverina*), and western toad (*Bufo boreas*). The garden slender salamander was the most commonly captured amphibian during pitfall surveys and was captured primarily in grassland habitat. These salamanders are also found in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodlands, and wooded riparian canyons. The 2 species of frogs that have been detected, the Pacific and California treefrogs, generally require the presence of water (shallow pools, flowing streams, or marshes) during some or all of their life cycle. Thus, they are more often associated with riparian vegetation but may also be found in adjacent upland habitats such as grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral.

The high diversity of reptiles within HCWA is supported by the presence of large, contiguous blocks of undeveloped native habitat. A total of 21 species are known to occur, including 10 lizard species and 11 snake species.

Approximately 84 native bird species and 2 introduced bird species have been identified through diurnal surveys, point counts, and incidental observations throughout the HCWA. Generalist avian species widely distributed and common throughout HCWA include birds such as the turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), mourning dove (*Zeneida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), western kingbird (*Tyrannis verticalis*), blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*), and lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*). Wintering species common throughout HCWA include the white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*).

Birds associated with coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats on HCWA include the California towhee (*Polioptila crissalis*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), Bell's sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli belli*), and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). Summer visitors include Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). Mature chaparral on-site supports a variety of species, including birds such as the blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*) and California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*). Migratory species that have been detected within these habitats include Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), and hermit thrush (*Catharus guttatus*). Additionally, raptors such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrystaeos*) may forage in scrub, chaparral, and grassland habitats on HCWA.

Riparian species found in marsh, riparian scrub, riparian woodland, and/or riparian forest on HCWA include three species of woodpeckers (*Colaptes auratus*, *Melanerpes formicivorus*, and *Picoides nuttallii*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), and red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Migratory species found within this habitat include Lawrence's goldfinch (*Carduelis lawrencei*), American goldfinch (*C. tristis*), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Lazuli bunting (*Passerina amoena*), black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), black-chinned hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*), Pacific-slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), and yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*).

Areas dominated by mature oaks on HCWA support bird species such as the house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), and Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannis vociferans*). Migratory species include Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*), Bullock's oriole (*I. bullocki*), western wood-peewee (*Contopus sordidulus*), western tanager (*Piranga*

ludoviciana), and cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). The relatively large size of HCWA and oak woodland on-site provides suitable habitat for nesting and perching raptors including the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Also present and potentially nesting within the oak woodland habitat on-site are the white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Owl species detected within the LMP area and potentially nesting in the oak woodland habitat on-site include the barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

Grassland specialists include the western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) and grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Grassland is also used as foraging habitat by a variety of raptors, particularly the white-tailed kite, northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and red-tailed hawk. The northern harrier is known to also nest within grassland habitats. Two harrier nests/territories were documented by the Wildlife Research Institute (2002).

Approximately 41 mammal species have been detected within the HCWA, including insectivores, bats, rabbits, rodents, carnivores, and ungulate species. HCWA supports a high diversity of bat species including 13 of the 16 species commonly found in San Diego County. These bats roost and forage in a wide diversity of habitats, depending upon species-specific requirements.

Mammal species within HCWA are common residents of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and/or grassland habitat. Species found within these habitats include the black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), California pocket mouse (*C. californicus*), and San Diego kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*). Other small mammals identified on-site include 10 species of mice and voles, including desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*) and dusky-footed woodrat (*N. fuscipes*), and two species of shrew, *Notiosorex crawfordi* and *Sorex ornatus*. Only one non-native small mammal species was identified on-site, the house mouse (*Mus musculus*), which does not pose a threat to native fauna.

The small mammal assemblage and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) that are present on HCWA provide a solid prey base for the medium to large carnivores. The most common predators are the coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). Although the long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) also eat small mammals, they have a more diverse diet preference and will scavenge for invertebrates, frogs, lizards, birds, eggs, acorns, and fruit. The ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*) is another opportunistic species known to occur in the HCWA.

San Diego thornmint, a federally threatened, state-endangered, MSCP-covered species, is the only listed plant species that was observed on HCWA during surveys. Several patches, totaling approximately 2,020 individuals, occur on the grassland/clay lens in the north-central portion of HCWA. This population occurs on a mesa between Jamul Creek (to the west) and Hollenbeck Canyon (on the east) on soils mapped as Bonsako stony clay. This small outcrop of this soil series measures approximately 5 to 10 acres in area and is the only locality for this soil type mapped for this USGS quad. As such, this small area represents a very unusual and rare edaphic, ecological island.

One federally threatened, state-endangered plant species, Otay tarplant is known to occur in the vicinity of HCWA. Otay tarplant is also an MSCP-covered species that is documented from the RJER. This species has not been documented from HCWA, though it has the potential to occur in the grasslands and the open sage scrub areas underlain by clay soils. The adjacent RJER population represents a bit of a range extension for this species, and there are no known populations east of RJER.

One state-listed, MSCP-covered plant species known within the vicinity of HCWA is San Diego butterweed, designated as a state rare species. San Diego butterweed is a gabbro endemic and is known from McGinty Mountain just north of HCWA. This species has not been documented from HCWA but could occur in areas of gabbro soil.

Two federally listed animal species, the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher, are known to occur on-site. One federally threatened, state-endangered species, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was detected on-site as an incidental observation. Five additional threatened or endangered wildlife species have a potential to occur within the HCWA area. These include the federally endangered arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), the federally endangered, state-threatened least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*), the state-endangered peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and the state-threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*).

The federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly has been detected in at least four different areas throughout HCWA. Although it is not covered by the MSCP, it is proposed to be covered through an amendment (County of San Diego 2005). Within the original acquisition area, at least 20 individuals were observed near San Diego thornmint populations at the northern end of the HCWA. The primary larval host plant for Quino, dot-seed plantain (*Plantago erecta*), along with various nectar sources occur throughout the HCWA. Thus this species is expected to occur in all suitable habitats within HCWA.

The coastal California gnatcatcher a federally threatened and MSCP-covered species is also known to occur within the HCWA. Approximately eight pairs and two individuals were detected during 2002 monitoring surveys, near the southwestern portion of the property, just north of SR 94.

The federally threatened, state-endangered, and MSCP-covered bald eagle was detected during baseline surveys. However, these observations occurred incidentally. Suitable foraging and breeding habitat does not occur on HCWA. The closest known nest site occurs within Lake Henshaw in Santa Ysabel, San Diego County.

Within the HCWA, camera and track station surveys have shown that Dulzura Creek, including the tributary along Hollenbeck Canyon, and Jamul Creek are important movement corridors for a variety of medium and large sized mammals. The wildlife moves in and out of the wildlife area through 4 culverts that cross underneath SR 94, which has been identified as a barrier to wildlife movement, and the culverts act as a chokepoint in this area. Only one of these (at the southern branch of Jamul Creek) is large enough to accommodate the movement of mule deer. Other species moving through the culverts include mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, grey foxes, skunks, raccoons, and opossums. In addition to Dulzura and Jamul Creeks, Little Cedar Creek to the south is considered a valuable movement corridor as well, facilitating north-south movement between the San Ysidro Mountains and the Jamul Mountains, Proctor Valley, and San Miguel Mountains via Jamul Creek.

Habitat protection and enhancement are primary goals of the HCWA, and all activities will comply with state and federal endangered species regulations as well as the County of San Diego MSCP requirements. No clearing or removal of sensitive natural habitat, including protected wetlands, is proposed by the LMP; therefore, the LMP would not have a substantial direct effect on any sensitive species. The low level of proposed human activities, and the generally passive nature of the activities, such as hiking and horseback riding, hunting, hunting dog training would not result in substantial indirect effects on sensitive species. The identified habitat linkages and wildlife corridors will be retained intact and no barriers to wildlife movement will be constructed.

The LMP ecosystem approach will preserve endangered species and their habitats, and natural riparian areas will be protected. The goals of the HCWA include preserving the MSCP identified regional wildlife corridors that connect to preserved areas on adjacent lands. Disturbed areas will be restored with native species and non-native vegetation such as eucalyptus trees will be removed.

The proposed construction of the hunting dog training parking area and water line to fill the hunting dog training ponds would not result in significant direct biological effects because these activities would occur within a disturbed area. Once filled, the ponds would be available for use during the legal hunting dog training period at HCWA. The low intensity of the hunting dog training activity would not result in significant direct or indirect effects. No sensitive species have been documented in the vicinity of the proposed ponds, and no significant impacts have been associated with hunting dog training activities in the other two areas where hunting dog training is currently allowed.

The proposed horse gate at the northern property line is located in an area vegetated with chamise chaparral. Installation of the gate would not result in a significant impact because a very small area is required to construct the gate, and the short period of time required to construct a gate.

The proposed unpaved parking area, vehicle gate, and horse gate, near the former Honey Springs Ranch home site, are located in a disturbed area. The parking area is located in an area of bare ground with adjacent ornamental landscaping. The horse gate and vehicle gates would be installed on an existing road, to allow additional access by equestrians in this portion of the property, and to provide for limited vehicle access to the new hunting dog training ponds, respectively.

The continuation of the current level of hunting activity would not result in a significant biological impact because (1) the hunting predominantly occurs outside the breeding period of sensitive avian species, and (2) no significant adverse effects have been detected to date as a result of the hunting activity. In addition, based on on-going monitoring, future hunting would be limited, if needed, to avoid adverse impacts on sensitive biological resources.

Habitat protection and enhancement are primary goals of the HCWA, and all management and maintenance activities will comply with state and federal endangered species regulations as well as the County of San Diego MSCP requirements. The goals of the HCWA include preserving the MSCP identified regional wildlife corridors that connect to preserved areas on adjacent lands. The identified habitat linkages and wildlife corridors would be retained intact and no barriers to wildlife movement would be constructed.

The following management activities would result in a net benefit to sensitive natural resources in the HCWA - active and passive restoration, habitat enhancement, species re-introduction, and sensitive species conservation. Although the primary goal of the HCWA is to protect sensitive biological resources, management actions such as surveys and monitoring, erosion and sediment control, restoration activities, species re-introduction projects, invasive non-native plant eradication, non-native wildlife control, and game management could adversely impact biological resources within the HCWA.

All management and research activities will be assessed for potential direct or indirect impacts prior to implementation of each management activity. The majority of impacts that could result from management activities are expected to be temporary (e.g., noise and dust resulting from the use of heavy equipment). To the extent feasible, all future management activities will incorporate appropriate avoidance measures such as temporary fencing to protect riparian areas from grazers, prescribed burn protocols, appropriate use of herbicides and pesticides, etc. into the design of the management activity. These impact avoidance measures will minimize the potential for biological resource impacts.

However, some impacts to biological resources may be unavoidable. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

- Surveys and monitoring will be performed by a qualified biologist.
- Surveys and monitoring will follow protocols established by the Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented whenever erosion or sedimentation could result from management activities.
- Any habitat impact resulting of the use of heavy equipment will be restored to its original condition.
- Activities that would directly or indirectly affect habitat occupied by sensitive species shall be conducted during the non-breeding season of the species in the project area.
- New facilities will be placed in disturbed habitat whenever possible.
- Temporary staging areas will be revegetated following the completion of construction.
- Hand tools rather than mechanized equipment will be used whenever feasible.
- All unavoidable impacts to sensitive habitats will be minimized and/or mitigated to a less than significant.

Potential direct and indirect impacts may also result from the public's use of HCWA. The uses that may result in impacts include: (1) the overuse of trails, open areas, or parking lots; (2) unauthorized use of closed areas; (3) conflicts among users; and (4) accidents involving wildlife (e.g. road kill). These impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level by implementation of the following mitigation measures:

- Managing visitation to an appropriate level.
- Preventing unauthorized activities through daily observation of visitor activities.
- Promptly repairing damaged trails, parking areas, etc.
- Installing educational signs and/or display cases to educate and inform the public regarding rules and regulations governing the use of the HCWA and access restrictions.
- Regularly monitoring public use effects on existing ecosystems.
- Closing trails where use is determined to have, or potentially have, an adverse effect on sensitive biological or cultural resources.

None of the maintenance activities proposed in the LMP would result in the removal of sensitive vegetation communities by clearing and grading, or construction activities that would produce excessive noise levels or high levels of dust generation. Consequently, the proposed maintenance activities would not result in significant direct or indirect impacts to the biological resources within the HCWA.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) and b). Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.

c) and d). No Impact.

Cultural resource surveys within the HCWA identified a total of 43 cultural resources that include a prehistoric component. Of these cultural resources, there are 37 sites and 6 isolates. The site types are eight habitation sites, seven temporary camps, five lithic scatters, and 17 bedrock milling sites. The six isolates consist of flakes, manos, ceramics, and projectile points. In addition, there are seven prehistoric resources immediately adjacent to the HCWA outside the wildlife area boundaries. They consist of one habitation site, four temporary camps, one lithic scatter, and one bedrock milling site.

The surveys identified nine cultural resources within the HCWA that include a historic component. They include historic foundations, a historic sign, historic trash scatters, historic structures, and two home sites. They are described as late 19th to early 20th century resources of early settlers. In addition, there is one historic resource immediately adjacent to the HCWA outside the wildlife area boundaries. CA-SDI-7446 was identified as Geary's Homestead. In 1890, Daniel Geary homesteaded this area and built his home at this knoll on a prehistoric site.

A search of the Sacred Lands files held by the California Native American Heritage Commission identified sacred lands within the HCWA. No details of the nature of the resource were provided.

A cultural resource management plan study completed for the Department in 2002 prioritized the protection of CA-SDI-7441, -9273, -9689, -14,439, and -14,443 as a top priority. These sites should not be accessible nor should any development or access improvements be made to these locations. Revegetation programs should be implemented to hide CA-SDI-16,270, -16,271, -16,272, and -16,273. In addition, corrals and split-wood fences located on Jamul Creek should be protected and preserved since they provide context to the ranching that existed there for so many years. Implementation of the cultural resource management plan will reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Of the 5,189 acres within the HCWA, approximately 2,997 acres have not yet been surveyed for cultural resources. If additional access points are added, additional surveys must be completed prior to any ground disturbance by clearing or grading. The highest priorities for additional surveys are the Jamul Creek area and the fallow fields along SR 94 north of the Daley family complex.

Public use of the HCWA, and grading activities associated with maintenance and management could adversely affect historic or archaeological resources. Potential impacts would be reduced to less than significant level by the implementation of the following mitigation measures.

- Fencing or other barriers will be placed around identified cultural resource sites that could be disturbed by human encroachment such as hiking and hunting activities.
- All grading and construction activities, and active human use areas, will be sited to avoid known cultural resource sites to the extent feasible.
- A cultural resource investigation shall be conducted before any grading or public use occurs in an area that has not been surveyed for cultural resources.
- Cultural resource investigations will be conducted under the guidance of a qualified cultural resource professional, as defined by the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards.
- Cultural resource investigations and treatments shall be conducted in accordance with federal and state of California regulations and standards concerning cultural resources.

- A final report for each investigation will be filed at RJER, and with the South Coastal Information Center, which manages the Historical Resources Inventory database for San Diego County, under the direction of the California Office of Historic Preservation.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

a), b), c), d), and e). No Impact.

The San Ysidro Mountains to the south of HCWA and the Jamul Mountains and San Miguel Mountains to the west were part of a series of volcanic islands off the coast of California. Volcanic ash and breccia from these volcanoes metamorphosed to become the fine-grained rock of the Santiago Peak Volcanic Formation. To the east of these islands, a granitic and gabbroic batholith was uplifted to form the Peninsular Range. HCWA lies near the contact of these two formations. Granitic boulders and granitic outcrops are present throughout the wildlife area.

HCWA is located where the coastal plains grade into the foothill mountains, and is traversed by Jamul Creek, Hollenbeck Canyon, and Dulzura Creek, all of which flow down the watershed into Lower Otay Lake. The site has gentle to moderately steep hills and open valleys varying in elevation from a low of 750 to a high of 2,600 feet, and it contains a diverse mixture of vegetative communities and habitat features.

The majority of the HCWA is composed of Cieneba soils, which characterize the eastern side of HCWA (see Table 3). The next largest soil cover within the HCWA is the Vista series, which is predominant in the central portion of the wildlife area. In the northwestern portion, the dominant soil series is Las Posas, with Visalia, Ramona, Greenfield, Fallbrook, and small portions of Grangeville fine, sandy loam, and Cieneba surrounding Las Posas.

Many of the low-lying areas within the wildlife area, either directly along the drainages or adjacent to these areas, are underlain by soils of the Ramona, Visalia, and Greenfield series. The central and upper reaches of Hollenbeck Canyon, however, as well as segments of other tributaries, are characterized by the Vista and Cieneba soil series, similar to the adjacent uplands. Descriptions of the soil types present on the LMP area are provided in Table 3 on the following page.

Some of the soils (e.g. Grangeville, Friant, and Escondido) are subject to severe erodibility while others are well drained. The runoff potential of the soil series varies from fairly low to very high. Most of the soils are suitable for trails and paths although the Friant soils are poorly suited for trails and paths.

The HCWA does not include the construction of facilities that require landform alterations, nor would the proposed use of the site result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. No septic systems or waste water disposal systems are proposed because a limited number of people would utilize the area; porta-johns will be utilized as needed throughout the year. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or property to geologic hazards including seismic ground shaking or failure, liquefaction, landslides, unstable soils or geologic unit, subsidence, or expansive soils. No landform alterations would be required for the implementation of the HCWA, nor would the proposed use of the site result in soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Existing eroded areas, including a deep gully along one of the creeks that cross the HCWA, would be restored and stabilized to prevent future erosion.

Table 3
Characteristics of Soil Types Present within the HCWA

Soil Series	Structure	Slope	Additional Description	Suitability for Public Use
Cieneba	Very shallow to shallow, coarse sandy loams.	Various (rolling slopes to mountainous uplands).	Very excessively drained soils. Occur at elevations of 500 to 3,000 feet.	Suitable for creating trails and paths.
Vista	Moderately deep and deep, coarse sandy loams.	5 to 6 percent.	Well-drained. Occur on upland areas at elevations of 300 to 500 feet.	Well suited to creating trails, paths, and roads.
Fallbrook	Sandy loams.	2 to 30 percent.	Occur on upland areas at elevations of 200 to 2,500 feet.	Suited to trails, paths, and moderately suitable road locations.
Ramona	Deep sandy loams with a sandy clay subsoil.	0 to 30 percent.	Well-drained soils associated with terraces and alluvial fans. Occur at elevations of 200 to 1,800 feet.	Suitable for trails and paths.
Greenfield	Very fine sandy loams.	0 to 15 percent.	Occur on alluvial fans and alluvial plains at elevations of 400 to 800 feet.	Suitable for trails and paths.
Las Posas	Stony, fine sandy loams with a clay subsoil.	2 to 65 percent.	These soils have moderate erodibility and high runoff potential.	Areas with slopes up to 15 percent are suitable for trails and paths; however, these soils are largely unsuitable for roads, picnic areas, or heavy use.
Visalia	Sandy loams.	Unknown.	Alluvial deposits, well drained, fairly low runoff potential, and severe erodibility.	Well suited to trails and paths, and moderately suitable as road locations.
Grangeville	Fine sandy loams.	0 to 2 percent.	Formed in alluvial fans, poorly drained, fairly low runoff potential, and severe erodibility.	Moderately suitable for paths, trails, and road locations.
Acid Igneous Rock Land	Loamy, coarse sand in texture.	Various (ranging from low hills to very steep mountains)	These shallow soils occur within rough terrain.	Cannot be graded easily. More valuable providing habitat for wildlife than developing paths, trails, and roads.
Friant	Rocky, fine sandy loams.	9 to 70 percent.	Shallow, well-drained, upland mountainous soil with a very high runoff potential and severe erodibility.	Poorly suited for paths, trails, and roads.

Soil Series	Structure	Slope	Additional Description	Suitability for Public Use
Escondido	Very fine, sandy loams	5 to 30 percent.	Upland soils forming gently rolling areas. Fairly high runoff potential and severe erodibility.	Poor suitability for heavy use, good to fair suitability for paths, and fair to poor suitability for roads.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

a), b), c), d), e), f), and g). – No Impact.
h). Less than significant impact.

The HCWA does not contain any known or suspected hazardous materials, nor have such materials been used on the site in the past. The management and operation of the HCWA as identified in the LMP would not require the use or storage of any hazardous materials on-site. The site is not located within an airport land plan area nor is it within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip. Implementation of the LMP would not physically interfere with the County's adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan because the amount of traffic generated by the LMP would not have a noticeable effect on traffic volumes on SR 94.

The LMP would not increase the potential for wildfire hazards because the intensity of human use at the site would be very low. Potential adverse impacts associated with the implementation of the LMP's Fire Management Element will be avoided and/or reduced to a less than significant level by:

- Development, review, and approval of site-specific fire management plans for all fuel manipulation activities.
- All fire management activities will be conducted by qualified Department and fire agency staff, or volunteers under the direction of Department and fire agency staff.
- Fuel management will be accomplished by mechanical clearing or burning conducted outside of the nesting and breeding periods for all sensitive animal species.
- Permits for controlled burns will be obtained from the California Department of Forestry (CDF). CDF permits require compliance with all CDF regulations and the permit requirements will be observed during a controlled burn.
- Fuel management activities will be conducted in a manner that will not contribute to fragmentation of habitat linkages.
- Following a fire, all burned areas will be monitored to assess invasion by non-native plant species. Remedial seeding or other measures will be conducted as needed. Weed-dominated habitats and non-native grasslands dry out earlier than native perennial species and are easily ignited.
- Areas damaged from fire suppression activities will be promptly revegetated or repaired.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), and j). - No Impact.
i). - Less than significant impact.

HCWA lies within the 93,000-acre Otay River Watershed and is traversed or bordered by three major drainages and numerous tributaries, which flow towards the south and southeast, eventually merging on the adjacent HCWA and flowing into the Lower Otay Reservoir. The northernmost drainage, Jamul Creek, is a seasonal tributary that drains the northern portion of the wildlife area. Two branches of Jamul Creek exit HCWA and enter into Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve through culverts underneath SR 94.

The project site is located in the Jamul (10.33), Lee (10.34), and Hollenbeck (10.35) Hydrologic Subareas as identified in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (9)* prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (1994). These Subareas are within the Dulzura Hydrologic Area (10.30) of the Otay Hydrologic Unit (10.00). Identified beneficial uses of these inland surface waters include municipal, domestic water, industrial process, and agriculture water supply, contact and non-contact water recreation, warm fresh water, and wildlife habitat. The Clean Water Act *Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies* does not include any water bodies associated with the Jamul, Lee, and Hollenbeck Hydrologic Subareas.

Implementation of the proposed HCWA project would not violate any water quality standard or waste discharge permit because the project will not result in the discharge of water or wastewater. The project will not deplete or affect groundwater because groundwater will not be utilized for any of its activities except refilling the abandoned stock ponds and the existing home that will be used as a Department housing unit. The HCWA would not alter any of the existing drainage courses by grading, construction of new buildings or paved areas. The drainage pattern of the on-site creeks would not be altered, and the project would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. No housing units or other facilities would be constructed within a 100-year flood hazard area. Given its location, the project site is not subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

i). Less than Significant Impact.

The HCWA proposes to refill abandoned stock ponds in the eastern portion of the project site with groundwater to provide for hunting dog training. Dams and reservoirs in California are regulated by the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams, as described in the California Water Code Sections 6002, 6003, and 6004. The mission of the Division of Safety of Dams is to avoid dam failure and to prevent the loss of life and the destruction of property. The Division does not regulate or have jurisdiction over dams less than 25 feet in height with a storage capacity less than 50 acre-feet. Therefore, under these regulations, the small earthen stock ponds in HCWA are not regulated by the Division of Safety of Dams. There are no downstream structures subject to risk from dam failure. The water volume of the ponds would be small (<2 acre-feet), and the proposed project would not create a risk of dam failure. As restoration of other abandoned stock ponds is pursued, the applicability of the California Water Code Section will be determined, and the appropriate regulations implemented.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

a) and c). – No Impact.
b). – Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The HCWA would not divide an established community because it is located in a rural area. Implementation of the HCWA LMP is consistent with the provisions of the *County of San Diego General Plan, Jamul/Dulzura Subregional Plan*. The LMP is also consistent with the "Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment" of the *County of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan*. As noted in Section IV above, the Subarea Plan identifies a portion of the MHPA that crosses the HCWA in a northeast-southwest direction as a MHPA. The HCWA LMP was specifically developed to comply with the goals of the MSCP, County of San Diego Subregional Plan, and land management plans for adjacent areas.

The proposed LMP is not entirely consistent with the *Jamul-Dulzura Community Trail and Pathway Plan* adopted by the County of San Diego. Some of the trails shown on the *Jamul-Dulzura Community Trail and Pathway Plan* as public trails and pathways are not included in the HCWA trail system. In some instances, the alignments of individual trail segments are in different locations on the two trail plans. The Department shall resolve the conflict between the *Jamul-Dulzura Community Trail and Pathway Plan* and the HCWA LMP through discussions with the County of San Diego and amending the two plans as mutually agreed upon to achieve consistency between the plans. Amending the plans to achieve consistency would reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

a) and b). – No Impact.

There are no known locally-important mineral resources within the HCWA and none are delineated on the County General Plan or other land use plan. Activities proposed within the HCWA would not involve the extraction of mineral resource, nor is mineral extraction a permitted use within a wildlife area. The proposed project would not conflict with mineral resource protection plans or result in the loss of a known mineral resource.

XI. NOISE

a), b), c), d), e), and f). No Impact.

Implementation of the LMP and operation of the HCWA would not result in any construction or human activity that would cause an increase noise levels that exceed the standards established in the County of San Diego General Plan Noise Element and Noise Ordinance. None of the activities proposed by the LMP would result in groundborne vibration or noise levels. Consequently there would be no short-term or long-term increase in ambient noise levels. Aircraft noise is not a factor at the HCWA because there are no airports or private airstrips within a 2-mile radius of the site.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a), b), and c). No Impact.

The population of the Jamul/Dulzura subregion is approximately 9,000 people. It has several small rural or semi-rural communities including Jamul, Steele Canyon, Dulzura, and Barrett Junction. Jamul, the largest of these communities, and its surrounding hills and valleys accommodate a majority of the Subregion's population. Generally the Subregion is still rural in character since it has no sewer system and imported water service. The County's draft General Plan 2020 forecasts the buildout population will be approximately 21,400 people.

Implementation of the proposed project would not induce growth to the area because no housing or commercial activities would be constructed, nor would public services be extended to the area. No existing housing units would be removed nor would people be displaced.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) and b). No Impact.

The intensity and frequency of public use in the HCWA has been historically very low. The LMP will not require any fire, police, or other public services beyond those currently available. No new housing will be provided and no additional school or park services will be required.

The LMP will not increase the potential for wildfire hazards because the intensity of human use at the site will be very low. Potential adverse impacts with the implementation of the LMP's Fire Management Element will be avoided and/or reduced to a less than significant level by:

- Development, review, and approval of site-specific fire management plans for all fuel manipulation activities
- All fire management activities will be conducted by qualified Department and fire agency staff, or volunteers under the direction of Department and fire agency staff.
- Fuel management will be accomplished by mechanical clearing or burning conducted outside of the nesting and breeding periods for all sensitive animal species.
- Permits for controlled burns will be obtained from the California Department of Forestry (CDF). CDF permits require compliance with all CDF regulations and the permit requirements will be observed during a controlled burn.
- Fuel management activities will be conducted in a manner that will not contribute to fragmentation of habitat linkages.
- Following a fire, all areas burned will be monitored to assess invasion by non-native plant species. Remedial seeding or other measures will be conducted as needed. Weed-dominated habitats and non-native grasslands dry out earlier than native perennial species and are easily ignited.
- Areas damaged from fire suppression activities will be promptly revegetated or repaired.

XIV. RECREATION

a) and b). No Impact.

The HCWA will not increase the usage of existing parks or recreational facilities because no new housing would be constructed. The proposed project would provide limited recreational use within the HCWA. The number of recreational users will be managed, as needed, to ensure that use does not exceed the carrying capacity of the natural resources or degrade existing natural features or recreational facilities. No new construction of active recreational facilities or other structures is proposed.

XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

a), b), c), d), e), f), and g). No Impact.

Human use of the HCWA is very low, and the proposed project would not build any new structures or introduces uses that would generate a substantial number of new automobile trips. The only traffic related improvement proposed is a new, 1-acre unpaved parking area. No roadway improvements are proposed and the current emergency access to the site will be unaffected. No vehicular use is permitted on the dirt access roads through the site (except for maintenance and emergency access). No alternative transportation systems exist at the site and none are proposed. Air traffic patterns will not be affected by the project.

SR 94 and Otay Lakes Road provide access to the site. SR 94 is classified as a Major Road (4 lanes) between the communities of Jamul and Dulzura, but is constructed as a 2-lane road. The 2004 traffic counts for this roadway reports 12,900 average daily trips (ADT) west of Honey Springs Road and 8,300 ADT east of Honey Springs Road. The level of service (LOS) on these segments is "D" and "C," respectively. Otay Lakes Road west of SR 94 is classified as a 4-lane Collector, but is constructed as a 2-lane road. The 2004 traffic count on this road is 3,100 ADT with LOS "B." Traffic generated by the LMP will not affect the LOS on these roadways and will not result in a substantial increase in traffic on these roadways.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

a), b), c), d), e), f), and g). No Impact.

A very small number of people use the HCWA, and the proposed project would not generate any new demand for public utilities or services. No new septic or wastewater systems are proposed. No storm drain facilities exist and none are proposed; the project will not result in an increase of storm water runoff. Potable water in currently provided by on-site wells and no new water facilities are required. A minimal amount of solid waste is currently generated at the site and no increase is anticipated as a result of implementing the LMP.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a), b), and c). No Impact.

The Department currently manages the HCWA to protect rare, threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, aquatic organisms, and specialized terrestrial or aquatic habitat types. Other activities include scientific study, research, and education. Although public use and enjoyment of the site is encouraged, the uses must remain consistent with the primary goal of natural resources protection and compatible wildlife dependant uses.

The HCWA LMP is consistent with the MSCP/NCCP. The MSCP was developed to conserve the diversity and function of the ecosystem through the preservation and adaptive management of large blocks of interconnected habitat and smaller areas that support rare vegetation communities. Maintaining ecosystem functions and persistence of sensitive species is the biological goal of the MSCP. A biological resource core area identified by the MSCP traverses HCWA, the adjacent RJER, as well as nearby USFS and BLM lands.

The HCWA LMP will not result in adverse effects to the existing habitat, wildlife species or cultural resources. It does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a

rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. – No Impact.

The LMP does not authorize any substantive physical changes and future projects, if any, will require subsequent environmental analysis when the specifics of a project are established. There are no impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

c. – No Impact.

Implementation of the LMP would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

1. California Department of Fish and Game, *Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area Land Management Plan. – DRAFT* - July 2006.

2. County of San Diego,
   - *Regional Land Use Element*, 1/11/95.
   - *Jamul/Dulzura Subregional Plan*, 1/11/95.
   - *Open Space Element*, 1/11/95.
   - *Seismic Safety Element*, 4/24/91.
   - *Scenic Highway Element*, 12/10/86.
   - *San Diego County Community Trails Master Plan, 1/12/2005*.
   - *Multiple Species Conservation program Subarea Plan*, 10/22/97.
   - *General Plan 2020 Community Information Sheet* found at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/cntydepts/landuse/planning/GP2020/comm/jamul.htm

3. San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
   - *Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan*, March 1994, as amended
   - *Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, 2002 Update*, October 2001.

4. San Diego Association of Governments, *Average Daily Traffic Volumes*, 7/31/06.

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research

For U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Sacramento, CA 95814

☐ County Clerk

County of: _____

Address: _____

From:

Public Agency: Dept. of Fish and Game

Address: 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Contact: Karen L. Miner

Phone: 858 627-3939

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2006101083

Project Title: Land Management Plan for the Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area

Project Location (include county): Jamul, San Diego County

Project Description:

The proposed project is the approval and implementation of an initial Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA) Land Management Plan (LMP). The HCWA provides habitat for "special status" species, game species, and other native species.

This is to advise that the California Department of Fish and Game ☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency has approved the above described project on 9-23-08 (Date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☐ were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: CDFG Regional Office, 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego 92123

Signature (Public Agency) _____ Title Deputy Director

Date 9-23-08 Date Received for filing at OPR _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

RECEIVED
SEP. 25 2008
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Revised 2005